

**TESTIMONY OF
KATHLEEN SILARD
STAMFORD HEALTH
SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 14, 2023**

Stamford Health appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **House Bill 6628, An Act Concerning Medicaid Coverage of Biomarker Testing**.

Stamford Health is a comprehensive, independent non-profit health care system that serves Lower Fairfield and Westchester counties. We employ more than 3,800 people, making us the largest employer in the city of Stamford and one of the largest in Fairfield County. Beyond the lifesaving care we provide 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, we contribute more than \$1 billion to our state and local economy and provide more than \$106 million in uncompensated care to the residents that need it most. We are committed to providing friendly, personal care coupled with the most sophisticated services to all residents of lower Fairfield County.

House Bill 6628 would provide Medicaid reimbursement for biomarker testing for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management or ongoing monitoring of a Medicaid enrollee's disease or condition. Medicaid coverage would be conditioned on medical and scientific evidence supporting such testing. It would require the Department of Social Services' Commissioner to establish a means by which to provide an exception to a prior authorization requirement.

Stamford Health supports this proposed Medicaid coverage as the identification of biomarkers can be critical in establishing an effective course of treatment in medical oncology and other areas of healthcare. Medical oncologists are increasingly using cancer biomarkers to gain more information about a patient's particular type of tumor to determine the treatment that has the greatest chance of success against a patient's particular cancer. As new, targeted drugs gain FDA approval, insurance typically covers the corresponding biomarker testing as well. In our view, Medicaid patients should have access to the same medical advances as commercial and self-pay patients.

Stamford Health urges the Human Services Committee to favorably report House Bill 6628. Thank you for consideration of our position.